

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

March 13th, 2016

“GOD...sent HIM to bless
you, in turning away every
one of you from his
iniquities.”

ACTS 3:26

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR

ADDRESS

**23033 Hughey Avenue
New Caney, Texas 77357-4993**

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2160 77357-2160

PHONE

(832) 995 7925

March 13th, 2016

Schedule of Services

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Please see Sandra to ensure your listing in the church directory is current and correct.

“Sin forgiven becomes sin hated.” (*PSALM 51.*) — **ADOLPH SAPHIR**

SALVATION

Salvation is not believing doctrines or facts about God; salvation is believing on the one whom God sent, the Lord Jesus Christ. “*Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*”—*JOHN 6:29*

PASTOR

JUSTIFIED

“BEING JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS”—ROMANS 3:24

As soon as a repenting sinner is justified, he is justified for *all* his sins. Here stands a man all guilty. The moment he believes in Christ, his pardon at once he receives; and his sins are no longer his. They are cast into the depths of the sea. They were laid upon the shoulders of Christ, and they are gone. The man stands a guiltless man in the sight of God, accepted in the beloved. “*What!*” say you, “*do you mean that literally?*” Yes, I do. That is the doctrine of justification by faith. Man ceases to be regarded by divine justice as

a guilty being; the moment he believes on Christ, his guilt is all taken away.

The moment a man believes Christ, he ceases to be guilty in God's esteem; but what is more, he becomes righteous, he becomes meritorious, for in the moment when Christ takes his sins, he takes Christ's righteousness; so that when God looks upon the sinner who but an hour ago was dead in sins, he looks upon him with as much love and affection as he ever looked upon his Son. He himself has said it: *"As the Father loved me, so have I loved you."* He loves us as much as his Father loved him. Can you believe such a doctrine as that? Does it not pass all thought? Well, it is a doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the doctrine whereby we must hope to be saved. Can I to any unenlightened person illustrate this thought better? I will give him the parable we have given to us in the prophets—the parable of Joshua the high-priest. Joshua comes in, clothed in filthy garments; those filthy garments representing his sins. Take away the filthy garments; that is pardon. Put a miter on his head; clothe him in royal raiment; make him rich and fair; that is justification. But where do these garments come from? And where do those rags go to? Why the rags that Joshua had on go to Christ, and the garments put on Joshua are the garments that Christ wore. The sinner and Christ do just what Jonathan and David did.

Jonathan put his robes on David, David gave Jonathan his garments. So Christ takes our sins, we take Christ's righteousness, and it is by a glorious substitution and interchange of places that sinners go free and are justified by his grace.

"But," says one, *"No one is justified like that till he dies."* Believe me, he is. Further to that, those who are once justified are justified *irreversibly* (ROMANS 11:29). As soon as a sinner takes Christ's place, and Christ takes the sinner's place, there is no fear of a second change. If Christ has once paid the debt, the debt is paid; and it will never be asked for again. If you are pardoned, you are pardoned once for ever. God does not give man a free pardon under his own decree, and then afterwards retract it and punish man: that be far from God so to do. He says, *"I have punished Christ; you may go free."* And after that, we may *"rejoice in hope of the glory of God"* that *"being justified by faith we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."* And now I hear one cry, *"That is an extraordinary doctrine."* Well, so some may think; but let me say to you, it is a doctrine professed by all Protestant churches, though they may not preach it. It is the doctrine of the Church of England...

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...it is the doctrine of Luther, it is the doctrine of the Presbyterian Church: it is professedly the doctrine of all Christian churches.

And if it seems strange in your ears, it is because your ears are estranged, and not because the doctrine is a strange one. It is the doctrine of holy writ that none can condemn whom God justifies and that none can accuse those for whom Christ hath died; for they are totally free from sin. So that, as one of the prophets has it, God sees no sin in Jacob or iniquity in Israel. In the moment they believe their sins being imputed to Christ, they cease to be theirs, and Christ's righteousness is imputed to them and accounted theirs, so that they are accepted. (PSALM 32)

C.H. SPURGEON

HE SHALL NOT FAIL

Beloved, rejoice, our God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ "shall save his people from their sins"...*"He shall not fail!"* (MATTHEW 1:21, ISAIAH 42:4)

PASTOR

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOSPEL

My heart breaks as I watch people compromise the Gospel. But I must say again...There is only one Gospel! The Gospel of the free and sovereign Grace of Christ my Lord. The Gospel that gives Christ all the Glory in Salvation and excludes human boasting. The Gospel that exalts the electing love of the Father, the effectual redemption of the Son, and the irresistible Grace of the Holy Spirit. This is the gospel and where this is not preached, the Gospel of Christ is not preached! Call me bigoted, narrow, or cultist, if you will, but this is the only Gospel that will save a sinner like me. I am captive to this Gospel. I really have no choice but to preach this Gospel! While many around us turn back, and while others criticize us for our stand, *"I must say with Martin Luther of old, Here I stand. I can do no other!"* By God's Grace, I am willing to die for this Gospel, and I say with the Apostle Paul, *"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord, TO TESTIFY THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD"* (ACTS 20:24).

TODD NIBERT